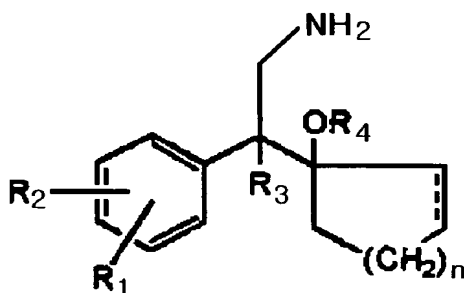


In the claims:

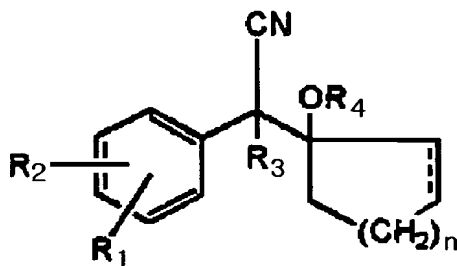
Claim 1 (Currently amended)

A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I,



(I)

wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are ortho or para substituents, independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_7$ - $C_9$  aralkoxy,  $C_2$ - $C_7$  alkanoyloxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylmercapto, halo and trifluoromethyl;  $R_3$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl;  $R_4$  is hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl, formyl or  $C_2$ - $C_7$  alkanoyl;  $n$  is one of the integers 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and the dotted line represents optional olefinic unsaturation; comprising, hydrogenating a compound of formula III,



(III)

in the presence of an alkaline nickel or cobalt catalyst at a temperature of about  $10^\circ C$  to about  $20^\circ C$ .

Claim 2 (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the catalyst is Raney-Ni.

Claims 3 – 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of methanol, ethanol or isopropyl alcohol.

Claim 6 (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the amount of catalyst is from about 10 to about 50% by weight based on the amount of the compound of formula III.

Claim 7 (Original) The process of Claim 6 wherein the amount of catalyst is from about 30 to about 50% by weight based on the amount of the compound of formula III.

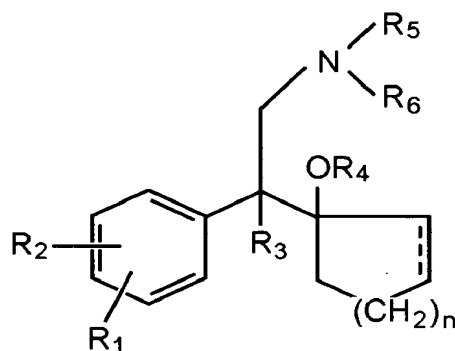
Claim 8 (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_3$  alkoxy, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl or  $C_1$ - $C_3$  alkyl;  $R_2$  is  $C_1$ - $C_3$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_3$  alkoxy, chloro, bromo, trifluoromethyl or  $C_2$ - $C_3$  alkanoyloxy;  $R_3$  is hydrogen or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl; and  $R_4$  is hydrogen.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the compound of Formula I is 1-[2-amino-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]cyclohexanol.

Claim 11 (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the compound of Formula I is 1-[2-amino-1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]cyclohexanol.

Claim 12 (Original) The process of Claim 1 further comprising alkylating the compound of formula (I) to provide compound of Formula (II)



(II)

wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are ortho or para substituents, independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_7$ - $C_9$  aralkoxy,  $C_2$ - $C_7$

alkanoyloxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylmercapto, halo and trifluoromethyl; R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl ; R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, formyl or C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> alkanoyl; R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; R<sub>6</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; n is one of the integers 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4; and the dotted line represents optional olefinic unsaturation.

Claim 13 (Original) The process of Claim 12, further comprising conversion of the compound of formula (II) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

Claim 14 (Original) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the compound of formula II is venlafaxine, O-desmethylvenlafaxine, N-desmethylvenlafaxine, N,N-didesmethylvenlafaxine, N,O-didesmethylvenlafaxine or O-desmethyl-N,N-didesmethylvenlafaxine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 15 – 19 (Cancelled)